



Steven L. Beshear / Governor
J. Michael Brown / Secretary
John W. Bizzack, Ph.D. / Commissioner

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Contact: Kelly Foreman
859-622-6453

Beshear, McCubbin address families, friends of officers killed in the line of duty at Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony

RICHMOND, Ky. (May 21, 2014) – Guest speakers Gov. Steve Beshear and Bardstown Police Chief Rick McCubbin addressed the hundreds gathered today at the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony to commemorate the lives of nine fallen law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to the Commonwealth.

Beshear opened the ceremony with a tribute, not only to the nine officers being added to the memorial, but also to Kentucky's law enforcement community and the spirit of service that surrounds the field.

"I am honored to be here today, but I am also torn," Beshear told attendees. "I'm torn because if you stop to ponder the stories behind those 518 names, it gets a little overwhelming. Five hundred and eighteen stories of sacrifice, 518 examples of duty and courage that inspire all who wear the badge."

Today's ceremony honored Bardstown Police Officer Jason Ellis, who was shot and killed in an ambush murder on May 25, 2013. Ellis' killer remains unknown. McCracken County Sheriff's Deputy Chad Shaw, who died of a heart attack shortly after arresting an individual with an active warrant, also was honored.

McCubbin recounted a story about making a trip early in his career to the National Law Enforcement Memorial and the impact the scene left on him.

"I never thought then that one day I would be the police chief of an agency and have one of my officer's names etched on that wall," he said.

McCubbin was with a group of police executives recently and said they talked about how they prepare for everything they think can happen within their agencies.

"We go to school, we go back to college and get our degrees, we go to NA (FBI National Academy), we go to SPI (Southern Policing Institute)," McCubbin said. "We do everything we can. We can write policy, we can interpret the law to make policy, we can balance a budget like a CPA and we can handle disciplinary problems and complaints. But none of us know how to handle when one of our officers dies in the line of duty."



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“But we must do a better job,” he continued. “One of the sheriffs asked me, ‘How did you handle that night?’ I said, ‘I don’t know.’ How do you prepare for that call? How do you prepare to respond to the scene and you are kneeling next to one of your police officers laying on the side of the road, dead, and you’re crying? I did. And I’ve yet to figure out how to handle that, as most chiefs and sheriffs. But the memory of Officer Ellis, Deputy Shaw, and all the men and women on this wall, that’s what keeps us going.”

The other seven lawmen whose names were dedicated at the memorial ceremony were killed in the line of duty between 1908 and 2012, but their names were not added to the national memorial until recently. The criterion for having a name placed on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial includes that it also be on the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

The names of those officers whose names have been added to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial are:

- **U.S. Marshal John C. Mullins**, killed Dec. 25, 1908
- **Nelson County Sheriff’s Office Deputy R.L. Hagan**, killed Dec. 15, 1926
- **Louisa Police Department Chief Lazarus A. Vinson**, killed Oct. 13, 1930
- **Louisa Police Department Officer Bert Hampton**, killed June 28, 1937
- **Louisa Police Department Officer Fred Pack**, killed May 16, 1946
- **Kentucky State Police Water Patrol Officer David T. Childs**, killed April 8, 1972
- **Tompkinsville Police Department Chief Herbert D. Proffitt**, killed Aug. 28, 2012

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial stands in memory of nearly every Kentucky peace officer who has been killed in the line of duty. This year’s additions bring the total number of names on the monument to 518.

The memorial foundation was established in 1999 to build the unique memorial. Once the memorial was completed in 2000, the organization expanded its efforts to include an ongoing financial endowment program, which helps Kentucky peace officers and their families with educational, medical and emergency needs.

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